

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

7 July 2017

I have recently returned from a sequence of education briefings and have found them extremely illuminating as well as being an excellent opportunity to network with other Heads of similar schools to The Maynard. Independent schools across the country continue to keep a very close eye on ongoing government initiatives such as new grammar schools, the potential taxing of fees and the partnerships with the state sector. A great deal of discussion is going on and I can assure you that I will be watching it all like a hawk!

I am also looking closely at some new performance initiatives and we will soon be getting involved in the Siemens Programme known as See Woman, which is promoting careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for women.

It will be very interesting to see how the new examination reforms play out this summer and I must again stress the issues surrounding the 'elusive' grade 9 at GCSE, which is the equivalent of an A*. There is still no school or Headteacher in the land who has a firm grip on where these boundaries will finally fall. Ofqual have advised that only 3- 5% of the GCSE cohort will gain a grade 9, depending on the subject. We must keep this in mind, especially when you consider that previously 8% of students would achieve an A* so the top grade now will be even more difficult to attain.

On an entirely separate note, can I encourage Senior School and Sixth Form parents to come along to the Maynard Celebration 2017 on the afternoon of Wednesday 12 July. I feel strongly that we should take the time to celebrate the very many good deeds and successes of all of our students and, in creating this Celebration Day 2017, I hope we can achieve this in a really fun manner whilst also saying goodbye to a few lovely members of staff who are leaving us for pastures new. Things are shaping up nicely and we have lots of performers lined up and over 40 prizes to award, covering everything from academic, musical or sporting success. My favourite of the new prizes include the 'Blue Boy Award'



(courtesy of the St John's Hospital Trust) in recognition of extra-curricular achievement and to be made to a student who has quietly achieved something unexpected and exceptional, possibly in the wider community, as a result of their own character and efforts. Likewise, we also have also created four brand new 'Blue Maid Awards' to be presented to those who have given exceptional contribution to the life of the school by demonstrating qualities such as reliability, initiative, leadership and helpfulness.

The girls are presently having a very stimulating few days with cross curricular programmes, educational trips and fun activities. I have just wandered into a classroom labelled up as 'Border Control' and listened to a fascinating and convincing debate from the Upper 3 on immigration! As always at the end of term, we have so many events coming up so do please join us for Sports Day (Monday 10 July at the Exeter Arena from 9am), the Swimming Gala (Tuesday 11 July at the Pyramids from 1.30pm) and also the Junior School Summer Show (details later in this newsletter). These are always much better events if we can have lots of parents joining us and being a part of it!

We waved a sad farewell to our lovely students in the Upper Sixth last Thursday and we wish them all the best of luck for the next chapter in their lives. It was wonderful to be able to award their very many achievements in a wonderful assembly with plenty of prizes and it was especially nice to be joined by so many parents for this. The dinner in the evening was totally fabulous and a very befitting way in which to wave them off into their futures. Good luck to you all!



On to the last couple of week's news and my apologies for no newsletter last week which has meant this one is rather long!

A very busy Open Evening

Our Open Evening last Tuesday was an absolute success with large numbers coming through the door and, once again, a huge amount of present and prospective parents commenting on the creativity and passion on display in all the departments. As ever, our Admission staff are inundated with enquiries with many still signing up for this September, whilst interest for the 2018 intake is already incredibly high! My thanks, as ever, to all our wonderful staff for helping make the Open Evening the success that it was!



Chalke Valley History Festival

Last Wednesday, forty of our Lower 6 and Lower 5 History students visited the Chalke Valley History Festival, described as the largest festival dedicated entirely to History in the UK. Certainly for Mrs Wilks and Mr Tabb the absolute highlight was a truly inspirational talk on 'Why is History Important' by the award-winning BBC broadcaster, Dan Snow.

The girls enjoyed a busy day attending a number of lectures on a diverse range of subjects from witchcraft in the 16th century through to who was to blame for the Second World War. They even experienced the full horrors of a WW1 trench thanks to an above-ground replica complete with fire bags and dug-outs to depict the scenario from Ypres Salient in June 1917. This was a fantastic trip and a rich learning experience that we shall certainly look forward to repeating again in the future.

Upper 4s enjoy a visit from author, Tim Bowler

Last Thursday, the popular author Tim Bowler came to School to give a talk to Upper 4 about his thrilling, best-selling books for teenagers. The visit was arranged for us and funded by the Budleigh Salterton Literary Festival and Tim was accompanied by Jennie Milverton who represented the festival and Paul Rowley from Waterstones who provided a book stall.

Tim has written over twenty books for teenagers and won fifteen awards, including the prestigious Carnegie Medal for *River Boy*. He has been described by the *Sunday Telegraph* as 'the



master of the psychological thriller’ and by the Independent as ‘one of the truly individual voices in British teenage fiction’.

He truly inspired the girls about creating vivid story lines and he talked with them all about how he uses seemingly mundane happenings in his own life to create a compelling novel. He used an example of when he once heard a tapping on the window and went to see what it was only to find nothing whatsoever there. He explained to them how he recreated this very insignificant event in one of his books with a little girl who heard tapping, went to investigate and saw only a wicker basket initially but then realised that in the reflection of the window there was a man standing behind her. From this one thing, a gripping novel begins to unfold.

The feedback from this very personal session with plenty of opportunity for questions has been quite immense and I know that all the girls gained a lot from speaking about story ideas with Tim. Many have even questioned how such a kind, personable and funny man could possibly be the author of such creepy thrillers!



Enriching cross-curricular days

Whilst the Upper 3 students have been learning about what it means to be British, the Lower 4s were examining the connection between Maths and Islamic Art. Meanwhile, the Upper 4s (who aren't on the DofE training) have filled their cross-curricular days with helping to launch a whole school celebration in 2018 to mark 100 years of British women getting the vote. They are even creating a pack of Top Trumps featuring inspirational women! Below is their news article on the experience:

“The Maynard School has been looking at the women who gave us the vote. Year 9 has been looking at inspirational women in the world, both past and present. These activities are in preparation for the celebration next year of women in the United Kingdom being given the right to vote. They have been researching inspirational women such as Emmeline Pankhurst, Florence Nightingale and Amelia Earhart. The girls have done many activities to celebrate these women, including making a documentary about women's rights as well as a board to show the rest of the school what they have been up to. “
We will be uploading the films to our YouTube channel shortly.

Exceptional field trip for the Lower Sixth Biology students

Last weekend, the Lower 6 Biology students enjoyed a stunning four days at the Slapton Ley Field Centre, near Kingsbridge where they were taught by Maynard staff in the superb facilities. Very fortunately, the trip coincided with some lovely weather so the girls could enjoy the sunshine whilst working hard on the ecology section of Topic 5 - ‘On the Wild Side’. The practical work included freshwater and rocky shore studies, as well as focusing on the globally important vegetated shingle ridge. As ever, this was an excellent trip and very much a hands-on experience to bring their subject to life away from the classroom.



Much to look forward to for our talented musicians

I am normally quite loathe to include long lists of names in this newsletter, but all of the incredible upcoming events that our musicians will be attending warrants such a list!

Firstly, a massive good luck to:

Eleanor Thompson, Bella Attenburrow and Eleanor Garrity who are performing the last night of 'A Chorus Line' at the Barnfield Theatre tonight.

Gigi Hetherington who is performing at Cadogan Hall, London, on Sunday with the Royal College of Music's Junior Orchestra.

Robyn Bowman, Dodie Bowman and Alexandra Pavic who are currently touring Vienna and Montreux with the Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Molly Batchelor who will be performing with the BBC Proms Youth Choir at the opening night of the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall on Friday 14 July.

Bella Attenburrow who is performing 'Honk' with the National Youth Musical Theatre in London on Saturday 15 July.

Our congratulations also to Amelie Donovan who has been accepted onto the core programme of the South West Music School - another excellent achievement!

Well done to you all!

Performance of the Month

Our congratulations to India Leetham (Upper 4) who was awarded May's Performance of the Month in assembly last week for her all-round brilliance in Netball, Hockey and Athletics.

India has been selected for the Devon County Netball Academy, she also represented Devon at the South West Athletics Championships and was part of the U14 ISCA Hockey side that finished 7th in the National Hockey Clubs finals. Well done, India!



Tennis success against Exeter School

We enjoyed some enormously successful tennis matches against Exeter School last week when 24 girls across four age groups (Upper 3 to Lower 5) were selected to represent The Maynard. We won 16 of the 20 matches which was just brilliant and our congratulations to all those that played. These are

wonderful results and it was lovely to see so many competing for the School. May Wimbledon continue to inspire you all!

Pipped at the post in the Swimming Gala versus Exeter School

On Wednesday, we took four teams (Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15) to a gala held in the new pool at Exeter School. All the girls swam their hearts out in some very close and exciting races and the volume of cheering from our fabulous parent body could have matched that of an Olympic pool!



Our teams won three of the age groups and going into the final relay race there was just one point separating The Maynard and Exeter School. Unfortunately, we lost this crucial decider and so conceded any chance of victory but, that said, it was a fabulous event and we are very proud of all of our swimmers!



Rosie Wheatley's triple gold winning dance performance

Congratulations to Rosie Wheatley (Year 6) who not only took part in, but nailed her classes in the 'Sway' Streetdance competition last Sunday.

In addition to the group dances (where her team won gold in their section and the overall gold trophy), she also took part in two additional categories, Solo Dance and Freestyle, both of which she choreographed herself. It is just wonderful to report that Rosie won each of these categories and our huge congratulations to her for such a clean sweep of the board!

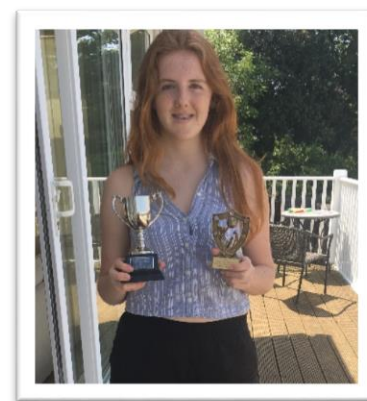
High tempo taster session for the new Modern Dance class

Whilst on the subject of dance, over 40 of the Year 6-8 girls enjoyed a fabulous taster session on Wednesday for the new Modern Dance class that we will be running from September. Clare Connor, who will be teaching this, put them firmly through their paces with a high energy and excitingly choreographed taste for what to expect next term! The girls thoroughly enjoyed this class and we are thrilled to be offering this as an after-school club open to all interested parties in Years 7-9.



Ellie Ramsay - Netball Player of the Year

Congratulations to Ellie Ramsay (Lower 6) who has been awarded the Exeter & District Netball League Division 1 'Player of the Year'. This is a terrific achievement as the very best players in the area compete in this Division so the competition would have been incredibly strong. She was also awarded by her club the Exeter League 2nd team 'Player of the Season' making this a double whammy of successes of which she should be very proud! Well done, Ellie!



Please support Emma Machell in her fundraising for Teenage Cancer Trust



On Saturday 24 June, Emma Machell (Lower 6) completed the "Bantham Swoosh", a 6km open water swimming event down the River Avon in South Devon culminating in an exciting high speed finish, or "swoosh", with the incoming tide at Bantham.

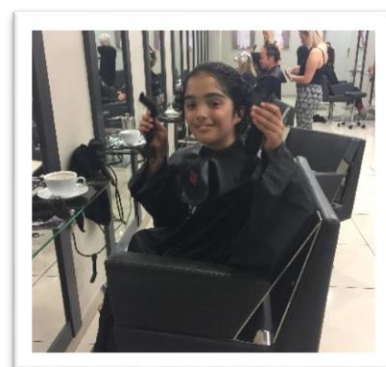
Emma was swimming in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust, a fantastic charity who do some amazing work to help young people with cancer, and she was really pleased to complete in just 1 hour and 25 minutes.

So far, she has raised £560 but you can still sponsor her - please visit www.justgiving.co.uk and search for Emma Machell.

Super charity effort from Baran!

Our enormous congratulations to Baran Fadavi (Year 4) who recently had a fabulous haircut whilst donating her long locks to the Little Princess Trust, a charity that provides real hair wigs free-of-charge to children that have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

This is such a fabulously magnanimous gesture and we all applaud you, Baran!



Upper 5 enjoy some fabulous opportunities during their Work Experience

All the students in Upper 5 have been knuckling down to some really impressive and varied work experiences these past couple of weeks and we have really enjoyed hearing about their many exploits. From the leisure industry, property development, a primary school, a vet practice, engineering firms and many more, this really has been an invaluable experience of the workplace and will, no doubt, hugely assist the girls with future career choices.

Apple Summer Camps

For those students who would like to continue with their interest of Coding and Programming, the Apple Store in Princesshay are offering 'Apple Summer Camp' during the Summer Holidays. Open to children aged 8-12, they are running three different Camps; Coding Games and Programming Robots, Creating Characters and Composing Music, and finally, Stories in Motion with iMovies. You can see more details and book your place here https://concierge.apple.com/camp/R279/en_GB

This is a brilliant opportunity and we look forward to hearing about your adventures after the holidays!

Young Geographer of the Year

For those looking for an exciting summer holiday project, may we point you in the direction of the Royal Geographical Society's 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition. Using the theme of 'place', entrants should consider how their favourite place is shaped by local, national and global process. There is much more detail about the competition here:

[http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Schools/Schools+competitions/Young+Geographer+of+the+Year+2017.h
tm](http://www.rgs.org/OurWork/Schools/Schools+competitions/Young+Geographer+of+the+Year+2017.htm)

We will also be running an internal Maynard competition for this and be awarding prizes for the best entries. The internal deadline is Friday 29th September by 1pm - good luck!

Calling all budding actresses - summer holiday drama workshops

The Pauline Quirke Academy in Exeter are running two Summer Schools for 6-18 year olds and are actively inviting any young actresses from The Maynard to join them for a week's worth of drama fun and friendship making. The first is entitled 'Make a Movie Week' (31 July - 4 August) and the other is 'Matilda, Show in a Week' (7-11 August), a reduced version of the West End hit with a final performance for friends and family on Friday 11 August.

For more information about the Academy and these very exciting workshops, please visit https://www.pqacademy.com/academy_locator/exeter/

*****Please note*****

No Late Room/Owls Club on the last day of term

There will be no Late Room/Owls Club on Wednesday 12 July. Please collect your daughters at the end of the school day.

Times for Junior School Summer Show

The girls in the Junior School have been working incredibly hard to perfect their performances ahead of the next week's Summer Show! It really is getting rather exciting and I feel sure that parents and supporters will be amazed by the sheer spectacle, once again!

However, I would just like to point out the exact timings for these productions as I believe we may have misprinted them in a previous newsletter (for which I apologise):

**Monday 10 July starting at 14.30.
Refreshments from 14.00.**

**Tuesday 11 July at 17.00.
Refreshments at 16.30.**

Do, please, come and join us and prepared to be wowed!



And finally ...

I leave you with these photos of the Lower 6 girls enjoying an afternoon at Haven Banks where they were trying their hands at paddle boarding, kayaking and sailing. They all looked very glamorous on the way there, but a little less so after a dip in the river! However, everyone embraced the activities and there was lots of fun in the sun to be had!



Have a lovely weekend!



Sarah Dunn
Headmistress
